

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 OIC-02 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10
NEA-11 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 COME-00
EB-08 LAB-04 SIL-01 TRSE-00 HA-05 HEW-04 FTC-01
JUSE-00 /146 W

-----061861 152009Z /20

R 141735Z JUN 78
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0843
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ILO, PLAB
SUBJECT: ILO: THE RUSSIANS AT THE CONFERENCE

REF: GENEVA 8976 (NOTAL)

1. DURING EARLY SESSIONS OF THE CURRENT ILO CONFERENCE, WHICH BEGAN JUNE 7, THE SOVIETS AND THEIR ALLIES HAVE LAUNCHED A VERBAL ASSAULT AGAINST THE STRUCTURE OF THE GOVERNING BODY AND AGAINST THE APPLICATION OF LABOR STANDARDS AND THE COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS. SPEAKING BEFORE THE PLENARY JUNE 9, SOVIET GOVERNMENT DELEGATE KOSTINE DENOUNCED THE ILO TRIPARTITE STRUCTURE AS UNDEMOCRATIC AND UNREPRESENTATIVE BECAUSE DIRECTORS OF STATE ENTERPRISES HAVE NO MEMBERS AMONG THE EMPLOYERS GROUP IN THE GOVERNING BODY. HE CALLED THIS "AN INFRINGEMENT OF THE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES OF THE ILO, ITS TRIPARTITE STRUCTURE AND ITS UNIVERSALITY". ON THE APPLICATION OF CONVENTIONS AND ITS SUPERVISORY MACHINERY, KOSTINE STATED THAT THE SYSTEM WAS "ORGANIZED IN SUCH A WAY THAT PEOPLE ARE USING THE MACHINERY IN THEIR INTERESTS TO HINDER THE

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DEVELOPMENT OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN THE ILO.... THE COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS IS, AS IT WERE, A SUPRANATIONAL COURT WHICH JUDGES GOVERNMENTS WHICH HAVE ADOPTED ILO CONVENTIONS, AND THE PECULIARITIES OF THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC SYSTEMS, AND DIFFERENCES IN LEVELS OF DEVELOPMENT ARE NOT TAKEN INTO SUFFICIENT ACCOUNT. THE MAINTENANCE OF SUCH 'PROCEDURES' MAY LEAD TO A COMPROMISING OF THE ENTIRE

MACHINERY, AND GOVERNMENTS MAY REFUSE TO TAKE PART IN IT".
"WE ARE AGAINST ANY ATTEMPT AIMED AT HAVING THE CONFERENCE
MERELY RUBBER-STAMP THE COMMITTEE'S -- OFTEN FALSE--
CONCLUSIONS WITHOUT ANY CHANGES BEING MADE IN ITS MODUS
OPERANDI."

2. THE SOVIETS CONTINUED THE THEME IN SESSIONS OF THE
COMMITTEE ON APPLICATIONS (REFTEL) PROMPTING UK
GOVERNMENT REP JAMES TO MAKE AN IMPASSIONED DEFENSE OF
THE COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS AND THE SUPERVISORY MACHINERY,
AS REQUIRING UNIFORM AND UNIVERSAL APPLICATION OF
STANDARDS IRRESPECTIVE OF DIFFERING SOCIO-ECONOMIC
SYSTEMS. SOVIET DISSATISFACTION WITH THE ILO SYSTEM
IS NOT NEW. YET LONG-TIME ILO OBSERVERS HAVE TOLD THE
MISSION THAT THE TONE OF THE SOVIET STATEMENTS IS MORE
BITTER THAN IN RECENT YEARS.

3. GOVERNING BODY ELECTIONS WERE HELD JUNE 13. THE
SOVIET "WORKER DELEGATE" PIMENOV WAS REELECTED TO A
TITULAR SEAT BUT RECEIVED THE FEWEST NUMBER OF VOTES
CAST FOR THE 14 SEATS. THREE YEARS AGO, HE RECEIVED
THE SECOND HIGHEST VOTE. ON THE EMPLOYER SIDE, SOVIET
DELEGATE POLYAKOV RECEIVED 31 OF 110 VOTES, 4 MORE THAN
3 YEARS AGO, BUT STILL FAR LESS THAN ANY OTHER EMPLOYER
CANDIDATE, AND THERE WERE 10 ADDITIONAL EMPLOYER VOTES
THIS TIME. THESE ELECTION RESULTS MAY CONTRIBUTE TO
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EVEN GREATER SOVIET ATTACKS ON THE ILO SYSTEM PARTICULAR-
LY IN VIEW OF THE RECENT COMPLAINTS FILED BY THE WORLD
CONFEDERATION OF LABOR (WCL), AND THE INTERNATIONAL
CONFEDERATION OF FREE TRADE UNIONS (ICFTU) AGAINST THE
SOVIETS FOR VIOLATION OF FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION
CONVENTIONS. VANDEN HEUVEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978GENEVA09025
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780251-0009
Format: TEL
From: GENEVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780662/aaaacaza.tel
Line Count: 100
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: c7a4bc89-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 GENEVA 8976
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2362617
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ILO: THE RUSSIANS AT THE CONFERENCE
TAGS: ELAB, UR, ILO
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c7a4bc89-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014